

I am a pediatrician in private practice in Danbury, CT. My colleagues and I serve and care for about 10,000 children in the Danbury area insured by a mixture of Medicaid and private carriers. As pediatricians, we are committed to our mission of providing excellent preventative services to the children in our community including encouraging and administering all vaccinations. Because CT is one of only 2 states in the US that do NOT allow medical assistants (MAs) to administer vaccines, pediatricians (unlike their internal medicine and specialist counterparts) must employ RNs and LPNs as our primary support staff which significantly increases our overhead.

Over the past few years it has been increasingly difficult to find and hire nursing staff. As small business owners we are competing with large hospitals' pay and benefits.

This problem has become acutely critical this year.

We are Vaccinating against influenza and COVID-19 in addition to administering all routine vaccinations following the CDC recommended vaccine schedule. The rate limiting step in vaccinating our pediatric patients is staffing.

Currently, we do not have sufficient nursing staff to be able to accomplish this lofty goal!

I was disappointed that the state legislative body did not vote on the bill to allow MAs to administer vaccines during their last session.

It is perplexing to me that it is safe for MAs to administer vaccines in 48 states but CT deems it unsafe. MAs are trained to administer vaccines.

It is even more perplexing to me that pharmacy technicians administer COVID-19 vaccines in pharmacies without the presence of a physician on premises, but for political reasons MAs cannot administer vaccines in doctors offices.

Allowing MAs to administer vaccines will enable us to find and hire staff to successfully vaccinate our patients in their trusted medical home under their own physician supervision.

Respectfully,

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